

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 09/30/2018

1 Samuel 13:1-14:52 – “The Foolish King and the Faithful Prince” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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1 Samuel continues to challenge our deepest instincts about how we think about leadership. This is incredibly relevant as we see leadership crisis after leadership crisis across every sector of our society.

Chapter 13 shows us the foolish king, and then chapter 14 shows us the faithful prince. They both point us in different ways to Jesus as the faithful king we all so desperately need.

As you are challenged by your own areas of disobedience and half-hearted obedience, be encouraged that Jesus lived as the faithful king who came to rescue a foolish people – you and me.

### Quotations

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“You ask yourself, *Who was that? Why that kind of rage? Why the denial?* Yes, you’ve just played the fool. The difference between you and the fool is that you see the behavior for what it is, and you’re willing to own it before God and others. [If you do that], you’re back on the way of wisdom...” -Chuck DeGroat, *Toughest People to Love*

“So, this story shows us what the true leader of God’s people should be like. The true king must be the opposite of Saul and must have the best of Jonathan. And this king will be worthy of our confidence. He will rescue us, and he will lead us, and we will say like Jonathan’s armor-bearer, ‘Behold, I am with you heart and soul.’” – Drew Hunter

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) In v.11, we see Saul give lame excuses for not waiting for Samuel to make the burnt offering. He blames the people, he blames Samuel, and he blames the Philistines – everyone but himself. What lessons can we take away from Saul’s disobedience?
- 2) Like Saul, we are tempted to disregard God’s commands because they are difficult or inconvenient. What commands from God are hardest for you to personally obey right now? Why? Take time to frankly share with the person next to you and then with your group.
- 3) Unlike Saul, we do not have to pretend that our sin against God has no significance or consequence in our relationship with him and others. Discuss with one another how you will continue to confess and not hide the sin you just shared with your group.
- 4) Look back throughout Chapter 14. What was surprising to you about Jonathan’s faith? How does he contrast with Saul? And how does his faithfulness point forward to Jesus?
- 5) God’s Spirit frequently brings one particular truth or emphasis to our mind as we sit under the preaching of his Word. Take a moment to reflect on the one main thing God wanted you to hear on Sunday. Then take time and share with your group how God spoke to you through his Word **and** how you will live differently because of it.